

I am appalled that the FCC has not already addressed the issue of Sinclair Broadcasting, their prohibition of their ABC affiliates from airing ABC's documentary on the Iraq War several months ago because "it was too political and too critical of President Bush," and now Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election -- all of which is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

I would urge you to intervene immediately, and prohibit Sinclair Broadcasting from airing the anti-Kerry documentary because "it is too political" solely because Sinclair refused to air the ABC documentary on the Iraq War as "too political." Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Using the public airwaves to blatantly advance the political agenda of Sinclair's executives is just wrong.

This situation calls for immediate action by the FCC. Sinclair's proposed documentary is clearly the use of the public airwaves to advance a political agenda, which is the one violation of the public trust that can require immediate action. After you address this immediate danger to the public airwaves, I would hope that the FCC would look at the broader issue: that is that Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Sinclair's actions show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.